

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested. Claims 1-30 are pending, Claims 17-30 having previously been withdrawn from consideration.

In the outstanding Office Action claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iida (U.S. Patent No. 6,377,525) in view of Yanagawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,310) and further in view of Matsuoka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,267,226). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iida in view of Yanagawa and further in view of Matsuoka et al., as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Kanno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,101,163). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iida in view of Yanagawa and further in view of Matsuoka et al., as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Szerlip (U.S. Patent No. 4,571,716) and further in view of Roh (U.S. 6,690,633). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iida in view of Yanagawa in further view of Matsuoka et al., as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Szerlip. Claims 8, 11, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iida in view of Matsuoka et al. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iida in view of Matsuoka et al., as applied to claim 8, and further in view of Inoue. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iida in view of Matsuoka et al. and further in view of Inoue, as applied to claim 9, and further in view of Kanno et al. Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iida in view of Matsuoka et al., as applied to claim 8, and further in view of Szerlip and further in view of Roh. Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iida in view of Matsuoka et al., as applied to claim 8, and further in view of Szerlip. Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iida in view of Inoue and further in view of Matsuoka et al.

Each of the claims is rejected over Iida over one or more ancillary references. However, Iida only qualifies as prior art under 35 USC §102(e). Consequently, because Iida is commonly assigned to Sony Corporation, the citation of Iida does not preclude patentably under 35 USC §103, according to 35 USC §103(c). Moreover, because all of the claims under examination have been rejected over Iida, in view of one or more ancillary references, and because Iida is commonly assigned to Sony Corporation, the assignee for the present application, and Iida qualifies as prior art only under 35 USC §102(e), it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of Claims 1-16 is improper.


In view of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-16, is patentably distinguishing over the prior art. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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